To: [HYPERLINK "mailto:Weekly_Report_Group@epa.gov" \t "_blank"]
CC: [HYPERLINK "mailto:hubbard.carolyn@epa.gov" \t "_blank"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:Blackburn.elizabeth@epa.gov" \t "_blank"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:Gwinn.maureen@epa.gov" \t "_blank"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:Rodan.bruce@epa.gov" \t "_blank"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:radzikowski.maryellen@epa.gov" \t "_blank"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:Robbins.chris@epa.gov" \t "_blank"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:Breen.Barry@epa.gov"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:coleman.sam@epa.gov"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:dunham.sarah@epa.gov" \t "_blank"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:shapiro.mike@epa.gov" \t "_blank"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:beck.nancy@epa.gov" \t "_blank"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:Yamada.richard@epa.gov" \t "_blank"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:Kaplan.robert@epa.gov"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:glenn.trey@epa.gov"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:forsgren.lee@epa.gov"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:nishida.jane@epa.gov"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:servidio.cosmo@epa.gov"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:Benevento.douglas@epa.gov"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:gulliford.jim@epa.gov"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:Lopez.peter@epa.gov"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:wagner.kenneth@epa.gov"]; [HYPERLINK "mailto:Darwin.henry@epa.gov"]

Administrator,

I'm looking forward to meeting with OCSPP senior leadership next week to discuss methods for promoting transparency in chemical assessments, and participating in a meeting with the ECOS Environmental Research Institute of States on December 8th. This week Richard Yamada travelled to our lab in Corvallis, Oregon to meet with scientists and learn more about the great work being done in our Western Ecology Division.

Hot issues

PFAS: Technical Support Request from Region 5 for Wolverine, MI Tannery Site

ORD has been contacted by Region 5 for technical support at the Wolverine tannery site in Rockford, MI. ORD has been sharing information about typical tannery effluents and analytical techniques to help in the environmental assessment (type and extent of metals, solvents and PFAS contamination). Currently, the Region is developing a broader scope request for ORD help. The Region 5 Superfund Division will be briefing their RA on the status of the Wolverine site this Friday.

Upcoming public events

National EPA-Tribal Science Council Meeting

On December 4-8, the National EPA-Tribal Science Council's (TSC) meeting will be hosted by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community in Phoenix, AZ. Research discussions will focus on EPA's new lead education curriculum, Region 1's RARE project on a fisheries study risk assessment, and trainings on tribal water quality. On December 7, ORD's Fred Hauchman will facilitate a TSC-hosted listening session on tribal science priorities.

Meeting with Congressional Staff

On December 5th, ORD leadership will meet with staff from the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology to discuss IRIS approaches to respond to Requests for Corrections.

TSCA Chemical Pre-Prioritization Meeting

EPA has scheduled a public meeting to discuss options for the chemical pre-prioritization process. The public meeting with be held December 11 in Washington, DC. ORD has been actively involved in the development of the discussion document for pre-prioritization and has drafted a key chapter in that document describing the systematic integration of traditional and new approach methods for chemical evaluation. ORD scientists and leadership including Dr. Rusty Thomas will be participating and presenting materials at this meeting. View the agenda and meeting materials: [HYPERLINK "http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTcxMTE0LjgwODg2MDcxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE3MTExNC44MDg4NjA3MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MTUxNzg0JmVtYWlsaWQ9ZnJpdGhzZW4uamVmZkBlcGEuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1mcml0aHNlbi5qZWZmQGVwYS5nb3YmdGFyZ2V0aWQ9JmZsPSZtdmlkPSZleHRyYT0mJiY=&&&100&&&https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/possible-approaches-identifying-potential-candidates"]

Last week Highlights

Prescribed Burn Video Footage Supports Smoke Emissions Study

Video footage of the Kansas Field Study conducted Nov. 13 at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in the Flint Hills of Kansas is providing compelling visuals of the emissions research and smoke plumes from a prescribed burn. The footage shows the use of a novel air sampling system developed in the lab and sent aloft in a tethered balloon (aerostat) to take measurements in the smoke plumes. The purpose of this effort is to partner with Region 7 to create a proposed educational video supporting best smoke management practices that protect public health and an endangered ecosystem, while promoting sustainable agriculture. Additionally, the effort is advancing wildland fire science with unique footage of smoke plumes for more accurate modeling while also providing ORD scientists with new resources to engage stakeholders.

ORD report well-received by Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) partners, November 17

The EPA report, "[HYPERLINK "https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi/P100SSJP.PDF?Dockey=P100SSJP.PDF"]," was shared with ECOS partners by OLEM's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery. The ECOS Executive Director and General Counsel, Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, Esq., called the report "amazing." This report summarizes the current state of the practice regarding construction and demolition material recovery in the continental United States, and the economic, community and material specific factors that influence the rate of recovery. Thabet Tolaymat, a co-author of the report, has been invited to present to ECOS in late January 2018.

ORD delivers Modeling Results to State of California

On November 17, ORD delivered the results from [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/stochastic-human-exposure-and-dose-simulation-sheds-estimate-human-exposure"]-High Throughput (SHEDS-HT) model runs for over 9,000 chemical-product combinations to California's Department of Toxic Substance Control. This is part of a collaboration with the State of California to help inform the selection of consumer product categories for priority evaluation under California's Consumer Safer Products program. The SHEDS model is used to estimate the exposures people have to chemicals from the use of consumer products such as personal care products, cleaning products, and home improvement products. The model is able to generate predictions of the range of chemical exposures within a population via different exposure routes (e.g., inhalation, ingestion, dermal absorption). SHEDS can also help identify critical exposure factors and uncertainties.

Camp Minden Superfund Site

Superfund. On November 20-22, ORD provided technical support for the [HYPERLINK "https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0600770"] in Doyline, LA, a former U.S. Army ammunition depot where explosive-laden wastewater has contaminated the groundwater. ORD helped Region 6 Superfund staff calculate the projected rate of decay for the contaminated material and evaluate the site's remediation timeline. This will help determine if a new, more effective remedy should be used at the site.

Wildland Fire Sensors Challenge

On November 22, the Wildland Fire Sensors Challenge closed. ORD received 27 proposals describing prototypes for wildland fire air quality sensor systems. The written submissions will be evaluated by a group of experts from EPA and federal agency partners to determine which prototypes will be accepted for testing. Prototypes will be sent to EPA in early January for first round testing, which will be followed by second round testing by US Forest Service in their Montana fire lab. A judging panel is being organized to review the final results of the two-tiered testing.

Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)

Last week, ORD scientists participated in the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) North America Annual Meeting. Our scientists presented their work to over 1,700 of their peers from academia, industry, tribes, state and local governments, and other federal agencies. ORD scientists also participated in a unique networking event with researchers from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and other state agencies. The goal of this networking event was to share current and ongoing research to facilitate federal and state partnerships. MPCA Commissioner John Linc Stine opened the session with remarks about cooperative federalism and working together to advance environmental protection in the U.S. ORD was also honored to see two of our researchers, Dr. Kay Ho and Dr. Diane Nacci, receive the prestigious SETAC Eugene Kenaga Membership Award and the Herb Ward Exceptional Service Award, respectively.

Natural Gas Leak in Porto Ranch, California

On November 27 ORD participated in a meeting with Region 9 to discuss plans for a study in response to a natural gas leak in Porto Ranch, California. Local residents expressed concerns regarding the health effects of being exposed to natural gas, and a local physician found elevated levels of uranium, styrene, and lithium in collected samples, prompting the study. The California South Coast Air Quality Management District has reached out to EPA to identify existing data for two common natural gas odorants, and has expressed interest in working with EPA to identity and/or develop data for their upcoming study. The purpose of the meeting was for ORD scientists to provide Region 9 an overview of existing toxicity data on the two chemicals and to have a discussion about additional actions that could be taken to fill knowledge gaps.

Meeting with Water Research Foundation (WRF) to discuss PFAS

On November 28, ORD met with the WRF to discuss their formation of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for planning future PFAS research that will likely focus on treatment for PFAS in drinking water. Future collaborations could potentially include advancement of the drinking water Treatability Database for PFAS and Treatment technology development.

Small systems webinar to help schools and the public reduce drinking water lead levels attracts 1,200 attendees

On November 28, OW and ORD combined efforts to provide information and tools on reducing lead levels in schools and households, which included recommended steps for ensuring effective school sampling, remediation and communication measures, and an ORD developed tool designed to help consumers identify lead free plumbing products.

State Support: Second workshop with State of Louisiana, Franklinton, LA, November 29
As a follow-up to the meeting with state and federal agencies held on September 21 and a workshop conducted on October 24 staff from ORD, Region 6 and Neptune are conducting the second in a series of three workshops with dairy farmers, communities, and interested state and federal agency staff in Region 6 and Louisiana. This workshop will use the Decision Analysis for a Sustainable Environment, Economy, and Society (DASEES) process and tool to develop alternative approaches for addressing the environmental, social, and economic challenges faced by the small dairy industry in Louisiana. The goal of these workshops is to help farmers identify innovative and economically-viable solutions for nutrient and sediment runoff control. In addition to community members and dairy farmers, workshop participants will include staff from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Departmen

Publication: [HYPERLINK "https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2017.11.027"]
In the event of a wide-area release of *Bacillus anthracis* spores within a subway system, rapid remediation will be a challenge due to the vast and complex system of tunnels and platforms. There are several factors that should be considered if cleanup and remediation of a subway system is needed following the intentional release of a biological agent. These include surface area and volume of the contaminated space, composition and porosity of contaminated surfaces, environmental conditions (temperature and relative humidity), type of decontaminant(s), and method of delivery (e.g., fumigant). This study focused on the decontamination of eleven types of subway railcar materials and a common subway tunnel structural material, such as concrete. In addition, provides data to assist in selection of an avirulent surrogate for *B.a.* Ames, for use in future field studies and additional lab-based investigations utilizing peracetic acid/hydrogen peroxide (PAA) and hydrogen peroxide (H2O2).

t of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Louisiana State University, and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.